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Abstract *of the Disclosure*

The invention relates to a method and to apparatus for checking security documents. The method of checking of security documents provides, on the basis of conventional capacitive coupling, for the transmission and amplification of electrical signals from transmitting antennae to receiving antennae by way of electrically conductive security elements, which signals, by conversion into signal patterns with easily comparable parameters, are then evaluated in accordance with amplitude and time response and compared to existing signal patterns. In order to provide for a specific selectivity of the checking apparatus a selective amplifier is additionally connected to the electronic evaluation circuit. A definition regarding specific currencies by means of the electronic evaluation circuit in accordance with the invention is obtained that for a given currency a time limit of the test signal amplitude which differs from the interval or the amplitude response of any other currencies, may be defined, e.g. by a controller.